

Library

1

Prudhoe Urban District Council

County of Northumberland



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1958



R. ROBSON & SONS, HEXHAM



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b299999947>

HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor J. L. STOKOE

Members :

Councillors : J. W. BEWICK

Mrs. P. GRANGE

J. J. HESLOP

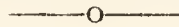
Mrs. F. McBRIDE

W. H. MORGAN

T. W. PULKINGHORN

S. RALPH

Ald. Rev. R. E. ROBSON, J.P.



OFFICERS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

MADGE HOPPER, M.B., B.S., B.HY., D.P.H.

Main Office : South Area Health Office, Newburn Road,
Throckley. Telephone Lemington 67-4365.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

W. G. TWEDDLE, M.A.P.H.I.

Telephone Prudhoe 281/2.

CLERK AND SHORTHAND-TYPIST : Miss J. GRAY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1958

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I again have the honour to present the Annual Report to you.

Several items worthy of note were brought out in the vital statistics during the year. The number of births showed a decided increase whereas the deaths only a slight one, resulting in a rise in the natural increase of the population on the figures for recent years.

The Infant Mortality Rate was encouraging being the third lowest recorded in the last 14 years. The number of infant deaths under one year was reduced to half the number registered in each of the two preceding years. All four deaths occurred in the first few days of life.

For the third year in succession, no death from pregnancy or child-birth occurred.

It is satisfactory to report for the first time in four years, no death from accidents other than a motor vehicle one was registered and it would seem that the increased emphasis and publicity on home safety and accidents in the home which took place during the year, is having some effect and is an encouragement to further endeavour.

Again, no death occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis but there was one from the non-pulmonary form. The incidence of pulmonary tubercle, unfortunately, showed an increase, mainly in males of the older age groups.

The Mass Radiography Unit made a useful visit to the district in September.

Notifications of infectious disease dropped to one-third the number notified in 1957, due almost entirely to the marked decrease in Measles. There was also a considerable decline in the incidence of Scarlet Fever and a very slight increase in notifications of Whooping Cough and Dysentery.

No notified case of Food Poisoning occurred. There was one case of Salmonellosis due to *Salmonella Typhi-murium*, but no link with food could be established. Since the outbreak in 1956, also due to *Salmonella Typhi-murium*, the odd sporadic case still occurs, possibly due to the persistence of some reservoir of infection.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in the summer, both were Non-Paralytic and cleared up completely. One case had received two injections of vaccine some three to four months previously.

Health conditions on the whole were satisfactory and the clearing away of the sub-standard houses at West Wylam and replacement by modern houses with full amenities has not only changed the appearance of the district but should show improvement in the general well-being of the inhabitants.

Preparation for slum clearance at Mickley Square proceeded during the year.

Health Education particularly as regards accidents in the home received an impetus and the work of the Old People's Welfare Committee took a further step forward.

May I express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their continued interest and encouragement, to Mr. Tweddle, Public Health Inspector, for his untiring devotion to the work of the department, to Miss Gray for her excellent services and to the Clerk and other officers of the Council for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

M. HOPPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1.—VITAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	3,889
Population (Registrar General's estimated mid-year Home Population)	..	..			10,140
Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	2,993

The two chief industries in the district are coal mining and the I.C.I., Chemical Works, the latter being of considerable size.

POPULATION

The population of the urban district was 10,140 at the Registrar General's mid-year estimate. This was an increase of 180 on the population of the previous year. The population has shown a small but steady increase during the last few years.

BIRTHS

A total of 180 births (93 male and 87 female) was registered during the year. In 1957, 148 births were registered so there was an increase of 32. The increase was particularly in male births, 23 more male births being registered than in the previous year when there was a slight preponderance of female births. There were three illegitimate births registered in 1958, compared with two, in 1957. The percentage of illegitimate live births was 1.7% of the total live births.

The birth rate (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 17.5 per 1,000 population, considerably higher than the rate for the previous year. This rate for 1958 is the highest recorded in the last ten years.

The birth rate for the country was 16.4. This is rather an unusual feature for the urban district when the birth rate is above that of the national figure.

Still Births.

Three still births occurred during the year, compared with four in 1957, and two, in 1956. The still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births was 16.4 and that for England and Wales was 21.6.

DEATHS.

As from 1st January, 1958, a death in a chronic sick or mental hospital is assigned to the district of occurrence only if deceased has been there for six months or more. If less, the death will be transferred to the district of usual residence, if any.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 121 (66 male and 55 female) compared with 103, in 1957. 26 of the deaths in 1958, were of residents of the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. The deaths of residents of the district numbered 95, compared with 89 in the previous year, a slight increase.

The death rate for the urban district (corrected for age and sex distribution) was 12.8 compared with the national figure of 11.7 per 1,000 population. In 1957, the comparative figures were 12.2 for the district and 11.5 for England and Wales.

Natural Increase of Population.

This showed a considerable increase over the figures for the last few years. Excluding the hospital deaths, the natural increase of the population shown by the excess of births over deaths was 95. In 1957, it was 59, and in the previous two years, it was 32.

Infant Mortality.

Four deaths of infants under one year of age were registered, compared with eight, in 1957, and nine, in 1956. All four deaths were neo-natal ones, that is, occurred during the first month of life.

The infant mortality rate for the district was 22.2 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales being 22.5.

The neo-natal death rate for the country was 16.2. In 1957, there were six neo-natal deaths and nine, in 1956. The infant mortality rate for the year was the lowest recorded since 1954 and is the third lowest rate for the district during the last 14 years. This is very encouraging and it is hoped that this new low level of infant mortality will continue.

Infection as a primary cause of death has been virtually eliminated and there was no death from congenital defects. In the previous year, no fewer than five deaths of infants had congenital defects as a contributory case. Three of the deaths in 1958 had prematurity as a main factor and one was due to cerebral haemorrhage following a difficult birth.

Maternal Mortality.

It is again pleasing to report that no death from pregnancy and childbirth occurred during the year. No death from this cause has been registered since 1956.

The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.43 per 1,000 total live and still births.

Individual Causes of Death.					Male	Female
Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	1 (1)	—
Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	—	—
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	—	—
Whooping cough	..	..	..	..	—	—
Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	—	—
Measles	..	..	..	..	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	2	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	5 (1)	9 (1)
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	—	2
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	12 (4)	13 (1)
Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	20 (2)	8
Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	—	—
Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	6 (2)	4 (3)
Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	—	3 (1)
Influenza	..	..	..	..	—	—
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	1 (1)	2 (2)
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	8 (2)	2 (1)
Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	—	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	—	—
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	9 (3)	7 (1)
Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	1	—
All other accidents	..	..	..	..	—	—
Suicide	..	..	..	..	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	—	—
					66 (16)	55 (10)

(Figures in brackets denote deaths in the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital).

The classification of "Heart and Circulatory Diseases" was, of course, the largest group, there being 41 deaths in this group in 1958, and 38, the previous year.

Deaths from "Vascular lesions of nervous system" were 25, a considerable increase on the 14, registered in 1957.

A total of 20 deaths due to "Malignant neoplasm" of all types was registered. The comparative figures were 18, in 1957, and 23, in 1956. There was little significant change in the figures for the two years, in each year there were two deaths from "Malignant neoplasm of the lung, bronchus."

Deaths from respiratory causes were similar in both years, 13, being registered in 1958, and 12, in 1957.

There was no death registered as due to "Influenza." In the previous year, four such deaths were registered, occurring during the outbreak of Influenza in the district.

There was one death from a "Motor vehicle accident," as in 1957. In 1956, three deaths were registered in this classification.

Under the group of "All other accidents," no death was registered. In 1957, four deaths were registered under this heading, two were due to drowning, one, to a fall at home and the other to an accident at work.

It is most gratifying to note that no death from an accident other than a motor vehicle one occurred. This has not happened since 1954. Perhaps the emphasis on home safety has helped to decrease the number of fatal accidents due to falls and home accidents.

No death from "Suicide" has been registered during the last three years.

Two deaths were recorded from "Leukaemia", both females, aged 61 and 85 respectively.

**TABLE OF DEATH AND BIRTH RATES
COMPARED WITH ENGLAND AND WALES**

Year	General Death Rate per 1,000 Population		Infant Mortality Rate		Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	
	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales	Prudhoe	England & Wales
1945	8.9	11.4	67.6	46.0	15.3	16.1
1946	10.16	11.5	60.8	43.0	15.8	19.1
1947	10.1	12.0	60.24	41.0	17.95	20.5
1948	9.2	10.8	51.7	34.0	18.73	17.9
1949	9.5	11.7	52.9	32.0	16.16	16.7
1950	10.2	11.6	51.8	29.8	14.23	15.8
1951	9.2	12.5	47.6	29.6	13.3	15.5
1952	9.6	11.3	30.3	27.6	14.05	15.3
1953	12.5	11.4	6.7	26.8	14.67	15.5
1954	13.08	11.3	16.9	25.5	11.25	15.2
1955	13.4	11.7	30.5	24.9	13.5	15.0
1956	14.2	11.7	66.6	23.8	12.5	15.7
1957	12.2	11.5	54.0	23.0	14.7	16.1
1958	12.8	11.7	22.2	22.5	17.5	16.4

II.—TUBERCULOSIS.

One death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis was registered in the course of the year, but none from the pulmonary form of the disease.

In the previous year, no death from Tuberculosis of any form was registered but in 1956, there were six deaths (5 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary).

The death rate in 1958 for England and Wales was 0.1 per 1,000 population.

The incidence of the disease unfortunately showed an increase, a total of 13 cases (11 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary) being notified. Two cases of female pulmonary tubercle were notified at the Hospital.

The increase of incidence among residents of the district was entirely in males of the 25 to 45 years and over age groups, eight cases being notified.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTERS.

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st December, 1957	31	27	10	6	74
31st December, 1958	34	25	11	6	76

Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital

31st December, 1957	10	5	4	—	19
31st December, 1958	23	16	2	1	42

Classification of New Cases Notified in 1958

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—
1—5 years ..	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ..	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ..	1	1 (1)	—	—
25—35 years ..	3	2 (1)	1	—
35—45 years ..	1	—	—	—
45 and over ..	3	—	—	1 (1)
	8	3 (2)	1	1 (1)

(Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital cases indicated in brackets).

The welcome decline in mortality is in keeping with the trend of recent years and the increase in incidence stresses the importance of work in the fields of prevention and case finding. The continued efforts towards better housing in the district and regular visits of the Mass Radiography Unit are essential.

Patients from the district attend the Chest Clinic at Hexham under the Senior Chest Physician and are admitted without delay to the various sanatoria in the region. Surveillance of family contacts is carried out by the staff of the Chest Clinic and B.C.G., vaccination given to children at risk with the parents' consent.

Following the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit, in order to save recall examinees a long journey to Newcastle for a large film, arrangements were made for this to be done at Hexham.

Particular attention continues to be paid to the housing conditions of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

The number of tuberculous patients who were in the sanatorium at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital at the 31st December, 1958 was 42 (39 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary). This sanatorium is for the treatment of mental defective patients suffering from tuberculosis and receives patients from other institutions in different parts of the region.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY.

The visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to the district early in September was helpful, three male cases being subsequently admitted to sanatorium for full investigation.

Sessions were held in the Gospel Mission Hall, Front Street, Prudhoe, with the following results :—

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Total number X-rayed	224	253	477
Total number recalled for large films	6	3	9
Total number referred to Chest Clinic	3	1	4

The total of persons attending the unit was less than on previous visits but this visit seemed more productive in case finding.

III.—GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY

The total number of infectious diseases numbered 72, compared with 218, in 1957, and 186, in 1956.

The decrease in total number was almost entirely due to a big drop in the incidence of Measles and a smaller drop in that of Scarlet Fever.

Measles.

Only three cases of Measles were notified in 1958, compared with 139, in 1957, and 33 in 1956. The incidence of this disease has faithfully followed the pattern of biennial increase during the last few years, 1957 and 1955 being the years of this increase.

Scarlet Fever.

The notifications of Scarlet Fever decreased considerably to nine cases from 24, in 1957, when there was an unusual increase in incidence. The cases occurred sporadically during the year, two being at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. The cases were all of a mild type.

Whooping Cough.

A very slight rise in incidence was noted in 1958, to 23 cases from 17, in 1957, but generally the incidence of this disease has gradually declined during the last few years as the number of children vaccinated against Whooping Cough has increased.

Dysentery.

34 Cases were notified, the peak period being in May and June, eight of these cases occurred at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. Several cases occurred in families, were kept under surveillance and several symptomless positive excreters found. Treatment was given by the family doctors and clearance effected in a short time.

In the previous year, 27 cases were notified, five being at the Hospital. They occurred mainly in the months of April, May and June.

Food Poisoning.

No notified case of Food Poisoning occurred in 1958, compared with four, in 1957, and 27, in 1956, when there was an outbreak in the district due to *Salmonella Typhi-murium*.

One case of Salmonellosis occurred in June, the patient a woman of 68 years was admitted to the Walkergate Hospital on the 27th June, the organism isolated was *Salmonella Typhi-murium*. Her daughter was found to be a positive symptomless excreter and surveillance, including the taking of stool specimens, was continued for several months until both were cleared. No positive link with food could be established.

Poliomyelitis.

Two cases of Poliomyelitis were notified. There had been none in the previous year but in 1956, there had again been two notifications. Both cases in 1958 were Non-Paralytic and fortunately cleared up completely.

The first one, a boy of 12½ years, was notified in July and the illness cleared up in three to four days. The child had received two injections of Poliomyelitis vaccine in February and March, 1958.

The other case was a girl of 19 years notified at the end of August. Initial symptoms had commenced on the 19th August and at the suspected time of infection she had been travelling back from a holiday in Wales. The case was Non-Paralytic and after a fairly severe initial illness a complete recovery was made. The patient was a student nurse and close surveillance of contacts was maintained, advice being given both verbally and by leaflet.

No further case occurred.

Influenza.

As in the last few years, during the winter months, the general practitioners co-operated with the Health Department in keeping a close watch for initial cases of Influenza as distinct from the common cold and its complications.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
 NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jne.	Jly.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	9
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ..	7	5	1	—	11	9	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	11
Meningococcal Infection ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34
Whooping Cough ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	23
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	5	1	2	12	9	20	4	1	1	2	5	72

FOOD POISONING.

Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) Returned to Registrar General—				
1ST QUARTER.	2ND QUARTER.	3RD QUARTER.	4TH QUARTER.	TOTAL.
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS.

Total outbreaks	..	Nil.	Total cases	..	Nil.
-----------------	----	------	-------------	----	------

Outbreaks due to :

(a) Chemical Poisons	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b) Salmonella Organisms	..	..	..	..	Nil
(c) Staphylococci (including toxin)	..	..	..	..	Nil
(d) Cl. botulinum	..	..	..	..	Nil
(e) Other bacteria	..	..	..	..	Nil

OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE.

Total outbreaks	..	Nil	Total cases	..	Nil
-----------------	----	-----	-------------	----	-----

SINGLE CASES.

Agent identified	..	Nil	Unknown cause	..	Nil
			Total	..	Nil.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The examination of faeces, milk, water and ice cream was carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Bacteriological Reports.

				<i>Results</i>	
				<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>
					<i>Total</i>
Faeces	..	..	..	77	60
Sputum	..	..	..	—	—
Throat swabs	..	..	..	—	—
Vaginal swabs	..	..	..	—	—
				77	60
					137

IV.—NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948**Section 47—Removal to suitable premises of persons living in insanitary conditions and in need of care and attention.**

A number of visits were made to elderly persons who appeared to be in need of care and attention and suitable action was taken where necessary but no formal action was required.

Section 50—Burial of the Dead.

Formal action under this section was not required.

V.—HOUSING

No council houses were built in 1958, but in the latter months of the year, steps were being taken to recommence the building of houses at West Wylam on Stage III of the scheme.

Preparation work was in hand to carry out the clearance of 167 colliery houses at Mickley Square. Most of these were of the back-to-back type with only one bedroom, very primitive sanitation and amenities.

The Council gave priority to cases of tuberculosis, as in the past, three families being rehoused.

VI.—ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Some nuisance was still occurring at the Colliery Spoilbank, West Wylam, although remedial work was done at regular intervals. During the year however a large tonnage of spoil was removed by a contractor who was using it for filling.

The district is reasonably free from industrial chimneys and the Council were in the process of giving effect to the provision of fireplaces able to burn smokeless fuel.

VII.—WATER SUPPLY

The supply of water to the district was good throughout the year. Samples taken and examined at the Public Health Laboratory were all satisfactory.

VIII.—FOOD HYGIENE AND HEALTH EDUCATION

No formal action was required under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Food preparing premises and retail shops were regularly visited and instruction given to employees on the premises.

During the year, posters on food hygiene were exhibited throughout the district and talks to groups of nurses from the Hospital, food handlers and school children were given.

Nine samples of ice cream and four of milk were taken and reports from the Public Health Laboratory showed they were all satisfactory.

There was no notified case of Food Poisoning.

The Health Department in conjunction with the Road Safety Committee co-operated closely with the county services in a special drive on the prevention of accidents in the home through posters, leaflets, etc.

In April, the Road Safety Committee, held an exhibition in the Parish Hall, Prudhoe and a stand displaying "Accidents in the Home" was set up by the Northumberland County Council Fire Service.

An evening film display was held in November at the Civil Defence Headquarters at Prudhoe, which was fairly well attended. Arrangements were made by the Area Executive Medical Officer in conjunction with officers of this Council for the films to be shown by an official of the County Council and a running commentary by a member of the County Fire Service.

IX.—WELFARE OF THE AGED

The Old People's Welfare Committee of this district made further progress by carrying out a survey of the number of old people in five year age groups from 60 to 80+ resident in the urban district, whether confined to the house or not and whether home visiting or chiropody was required.

Thirty one voluntary enumerators did house to house visiting between December, 1958 and February, 1959.

The survey showed a total of 1,042 people in the age groups compared with 1,141 in 1957. Of the total 11.5% were housebound, 15.5% living alone, 21.3 wished to be visited and 25.5% would like to have chiropody treatment. The latter figure appears high and would probably require sifting.

The survey is valuable and will provide a foundation for the committee to start work on, even in a modified degree, according to the number of visitors available.

Details of the survey have been kindly provided by Mr. T. Philipson, Honorary Secretary of the Committee, who has done valuable detailed work in guiding and reporting on the survey.

X.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

The details of this section have been compiled by Mr. W. G. Tweddle, Public Health Inspector.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Hospitals.

The Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital admits mental defectives of all ages from different parts of the region. Considerable extensions are being made to the Hospital.

Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Tuberculosis.

Cases from the urban district attend the Chest Clinic at Hexham under the Consultant Chest Physician. Treatment at one of the sanatoria in the region or at the Walkergate Hospital is arranged for within a very short time.

The Mass Radiography Unit visits the district and the Hospital at regular intervals.

(b) LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICES.

(Services 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and the care of the buildings under Service 2 are administered by the South Area Health Sub. Committee of the Northumberland County Council. The other services are directly administered by the Northumberland County Council).

1. Midwifery and Home Nursing Service.

There are three nurse/midwives living and working in the Urban District Council's area, two in Prudhoe and one at Mickley. The Stocksfield nurse does part relief and holiday cover as required.

2. Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Child Welfare Centre at the Council Yard, Prudhoe holds sessions for babies, children, expectant mothers, dental, eye and orthopaedic treatment as follows :—

<i>Children's Sessions :</i>	Every Wednesday, 9-30 a.m., to 12 noon. 1-30 p.m., to 4 p.m.
<i>Ante-natal Sessions :</i>	Every Tuesday, 1-30 p.m., to 4 p.m. Every Friday, 1-30 p.m., to 4 p.m.
<i>Eye Sessions :</i>	2nd Thursday in every month 9-30 a.m., to 12 noon. 1-30 p.m., to 4 p.m.
<i>Orthopaedic Sessions :</i>	1st, 3rd and 4th Thursday in every month 9-30 a.m., to 12 noon. 1-30 p.m., to 4 p.m.

3. Immunisation and Vaccination.

As has been the practice for many years, immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and by the general practitioners of the district.

During 1958, 132 primary courses were completed and 83 refresher doses given.

At 31st December, 1958, a total of 91% (92%) of children in the district up to 14 year of age had been immunised at some time during their lives. This figure included 76%, (78%) of children 0—4 years and 98%, (98%) of children 5—14 years. The figures in brackets are those for the previous year.

In view of the intensive campaign of poliomyelitis vaccination which took place all during 1958, this drop of 2% is small.

The Immunity Index which was introduced by the Ministry of Health in 1953 and gives the percentage of children in different age groups immunised during the last five years showed a slightly bigger decrease on the figures for the previous year though the immunisation of children under one year had slightly increased. The figures were 26%, (24%) children under one year, 94%, (94%) children 1—4 years, 50%, (61%) children 5—14 years giving a total Immunity Index of 58% (67%).

It is still of the first importance to keep the percentage of children immunised against diphtheria at a high level and this is being continually kept in mind. It is pleasing to note that the immunisation of young children up to 4 years of age and particularly under one year has kept to a high level in spite of the multiplicity of injections at the present day.

Whooping Cough.

A total of 122 children received protection against Whooping Cough during the year, compared with 121, the previous year. Most of the protection was by the triple antigen of diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus.

There has been a swing towards the use of the triple vaccine rather than the combined vaccine of diphtheria and pertussis against whooping cough. The number of children protected has remained at a steady level these last few years and its effects are being shown in the decline in incidence.

Tetanus.

As mentioned above, vaccination with the triple vaccine has become much more popular this year, 100 children being protected, compared with ten, in 1957, and three, in 1956.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

A total of 82, (109) primary vaccinations were done during the year and one revaccination. The previous year was a record one for vaccination against smallpox in this district as until then, the vaccinations had been extremely poor. The efforts of the doctors and health visitors have produced good results and it is hoped that this will continue and help to make up for the lack of vaccination in the previous years.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.

Vaccination against poliomyelitis continued on a considerable scale all during the year. In the South Area, approximately 80% of children up to 15 years completed two injections and towards the end of the year, third injections were commenced. In addition, the age group was extended in the autumn to include young people up to 26 years of age. Response in the latter age group at first was poor but increased later.

4. Ambulance Service.

An ambulance and driver are stationed at 4, High Row South, Mickley Square, Stocksfield (Telephone No. 3110 Stocksfield). The ambulance is radio controlled and in direct communication with the Throckley Station at Westway, Throckley (Telephone No. 67-4535 Lemington). Messages from 4 p.m., to 8 a.m., on weekdays and from noon on Saturdays to 8 a.m., on Mondays go direct to the central depot at Wideopen and are relayed to either the Throckley Station or Prudhoe ambulance. The ambulances of the British Red Cross Society at Corbridge act as additional cover when necessary.

During 1958, the ambulance at Prudhoe made a total of 669 (662) journeys, carried 3,541 (3,935) patients, including 158 (156) accident and emergency cases and 228 (253) stretcher cases and did a total of 28,893 (27,208) miles. Journeys made by ambulances of the Throckley Station and British Red Cross Society were additional to these.

5. Home Help Service.

Greater use was made of this service in 1958 by the old people of the district, a total of 102 cases being served of whom 90 were old age, infirm and chronic cases. In addition to these, three cases of acute illness, four confinements, two blind persons and one case of tuberculosis were served. The figures for the previous year were 65 aged and infirm people, two blind persons and one of acute illness, a total of 68 patients.

The service is a very valuable one especially to the aged and infirm. Many are able to stay comfortably in their own homes to the last.

6. Nursing Care Committees.

The two Nursing Care Committees of the district, one at Prudhoe and the other at Mickley, continued their services during the year. Though requests are infrequent it is very useful to have their work in the district. The Honorary Secretaries of these committees are :—

Mrs. A. L. Knox, 1, Grange Terrace, Prudhoe.

Mr. B. Nichols, 4, Aged Miners' Homes, Mickley Square.

Larger and more unusual articles of equipment are provided by the South Area Health Sub. Committee as required.

7. Care and After-Care.

The Newburn and Prudhoe After-Care Sub. Committee held regular two-monthly meetings as in former years. The scope of the committee was enlarged to include cardiac and chest complaints other than tubercle.

Milk was supplied to patients and travelling expenses of relatives to hospital in suitable cases and the committee tried to extend their help in the rehabilitation of patients.

REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1958

To Dr. Madge Hopper,

I herewith submit my report.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

Water Supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	137
Stables and Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Factories and Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Refuse Collection and Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	337
Rats and Mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Atmospheric Pollution (Clean Air Act)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Schools, Shops and Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	353
Public Health and Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	600
Inquiries and Disinfection in cases of I.D.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	229
Slaughterhouses, Butchers, Canteens, Dairies, Fishmongers, Grocers and Food Preparing Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	269
Ice Cream Premises and Restaurants	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45
Street Hawkers' Carts and Vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
Miscellaneous Food Visits including Milk and Ice Cream Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47
								2,360
Number of Nuisances Found	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Number of Nuisances Abated	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	84
Number of Verbal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Number of Verbal Notices Complied With	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Number of Informal Notices Served	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	173
Number of Informal Notices Complied With	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151

General Administration under the Public Health and Housing Acts.

The number of complaints made to the Public Health Department was 369. These were all investigated and suitable action taken.

Public Health Act, 1936.

Twenty ash privies were removed during 1958 and replaced by water closets. At the end of the year there were 288 privies in use.

Drainage Work.

All drainage work has been inspected in connection with new properties, alterations and extensions at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital.

Public Conveniences.

BRANCH END : For males and females.
ROAD ENDS, PRUDHOE : For males and females.

These premises were regularly cleansed and have proved to be a great boon to the district.

Refuse Collection and Disposal. (House and Trade Refuse).

The Council have four refuse collection vehicles :

REGISTRATION NO.	YEAR PURCHASED	CAPACITY
KBB 118	1946	7 cu. yds.
ETY 298	1951	7 cu. yds.
JNL 986	1955	10 cu. yds.
NNL 624	1958	12 cu. yds.

During the year, the Refuse Collection Service was re-organised and only three vehicles were in daily use instead of four which have been used for the past 15 years. The removal of refuse has been carried out in a very satisfactory manner and reflects great credit on the workmen, both drivers and fillers, especially in the winter months when refuse is heavy and climatic conditions made the work difficult due to the hilly nature of the district. Refuse is disposed of at West Wylam Tip and the area available will last for at least the next ten years although an annual tonnage of approximately 6,000 tons is deposited there.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.

The register at the end of 1958 was as follows :—

Garages	10
Joiners' and Builders' Premises	7
Bakeries	1
Boot Repairers	3
Sanitary Pipes and Brickworks	3
Blacksmiths' and Light Engineering	2
Battery Charging	4
Chemical Works	1
Sand and Gravel Extraction	1
Miscellaneous	19
	—
	51
	—

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.**Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	24	35	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	24	32	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	3	7	—	—
TOTAL ..	51	74	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	4	4	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences re- lating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	8	—	—	—

OUTWORK

NATURE OF WORK	NO. OF OUT-WORKERS IN AUGUST
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	—

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

There are two slaughterhouses in the district but neither of them has been in use during the year.

The various butchers' shops receive their supplies of meat from outside the Council's area.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954.

Five persons held licences to slaughter and stun animals.

FOOD INSPECTION.

UNSOUND FOOD	Surrendered
Beef	134 lbs.
Canned Goods, etc. .. .	306 contrs.
Jellied Veal, Ox-Tongue, Cooked Ham and Corned Beef, etc. ..	235 lbs.
Vegetables	3,682 lbs.

Disposal of Unsound Food.

Unsound food was disposed of by incineration and by burying in the refuse disposal tip.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 24—Sale of Horse Flesh.

There are no premises dealing in horse flesh.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 13—Regulations as to Food Hygiene.

All premises where food is handled and stored have been regularly inspected.

**Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16—Registration of Premises.
(Manufacture and Sale of Ice Cream and of Sausages, etc.)**

There are 43 premises registered under this section, four being fried fish shops, eight premises where food is prepared and 31 for the sale of ice cream.

Ice Cream is only made by one manufacturer in Prudhoe.

Nine samples of ice cream were taken and examined at the Public Health Laboratory and in each case the result was Grade I.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 63—Licensing of Slaughter Houses.

There are two slaughterhouses in Front Street, Prudhoe belonging to Co-operative Societies.

**Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 13.
Public Health Act, 1936. Section 89.**

Public Houses .. 9. Licensed Clubs .. 4.

Periodical visits have been made to these premises which are reasonably modern with one exception where the sanitation is unsatisfactory.

Travelling Vans and Shops.

Routine inspections of these vehicles have been done and it was noted that a decided improvement had taken place in this class of vehicle over the past five years.

Inspection and Control of Milk Supplies.

Four samples of milk were collected and examined at the Public Health Laboratory, General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. In each case the result was satisfactory.

Towards the end of the year, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food indicated that it was probable that Prudhoe U.D.C.'s district would be made a special area where only Tuberculin Tested or Heat Treated Milk could be sold.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations.

Number of licences—13.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations.

Number of licences to retail Pasteurised—15.

Number of licences to retail Sterilised—16.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269—Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of licences—2.

Stables, Manure Pits and Piggeries.

These have steadily decreased over the past ten years and during the year no nuisance notices were served.

Regular inspections were made.

Disinfection of Premises.

Disinfection of houses was carried out after certain infectious diseases and advice given regarding articles which had been in use in some households.

Disinfestation of Premises.

Several houses received treatment after reports of infestations by various insects.

Places of Public Entertainment. Circular 120, Ministry of Health.

The two cinemas in Prudhoe were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

Offensive Trades. Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.**Restriction on establishment of offensive trade in urban district.**

There are no trades of this kind in the district.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

There are no pet shops in the district.

The following table gives a list of repair work which has been done after representations made by the Public Health Department :—

Dampness abated	12
Walls and ceiling plaster renewed or repaired	9
Roofs renewed or repaired and chimney stacks repointed	21
Walls repointed and eaves gutters renewed or repaired	11
Floors renewed or repaired	7
Doors renewed or repaired	6
Window frames renewed or repaired	4
W.C.'s renewed, repaired or provided	24
Water pipes repaired	10
Yard surfaces renewed	9
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	5
Drains cleared	73
Dustbins renewed and additional	88
Food stores provided	5
Accumulations removed	16
Scullery sinks provided	5
Gullies provided	10
Drains repaired or reconstructed	22
New drainage	17
Privies and privy ashpits abolished	27

RODENT CONTROL, PESTS ACT, 1949.

The annual sewer treatment of all the Council's sewers and sewage disposal works was carried out in October and November and I have to report that after this work was carried out no evidence of rats was found.

Regular routine work was done in various parts of the district and complaints of rats and mice infestations were immediately investigated and dealt with.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Non-Agricultural				(5) Agri- cultural
	(1) Local Author- ity	(2) Dwelling Houses (inc. Coun- cil Houses)	(3) All other (including Business Premises)	(4) Total of Cols. (1) (2) & (3)	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	12	2,987	88	3,087	27
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	27	8	35	—
(b) Survey under the Act	12	92	31	135	21
(c) Otherwise (e.g. when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	76	27	103	6
3. Total inspections carried out - including re-inspections	28	186	68	282	37
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sect. II) which were found to be infested by :—					
(a) Rats Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	7	24	—	31	—
(b) Mice Major	1	—	—	1	—
Minor	3	19	5	27	—
5. Number of infested properties (in Sect. IV) treated by the L.A.	11	43	5	59	—
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments	16	52	6	74	—

HOUSING.

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	—	—	—
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	8	—	8

Total number of Inhabited Houses in District .. 2,993

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority .. 1,242.

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES**CLOSING AND DEMOLITION**

*No. of
houses.*

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	15
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	2
3. Houses closed, not demolished	2
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included in above	2

REPAIRS**Houses made fit.**

5. By informal action	52
6. By owners, following statutory notice	—
7. By local authority in default of owners	—
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	—

Houses patched.

9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	—
---	---

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949

10. Applications submitted to local authority during year ..	4
11. Applications rejected	—
12. Applications approved	4
13. Approximate average grant approved per house ..	£265
14. Total number of houses approved for grant in your area since inception of scheme	87

BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

9th October, 1950. Model Byelaws, Series (1), Ministry of Food.
Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

For securing cleanly conditions and practices in
connection with the handling, wrapping and
delivery of food and sale of food in the open air.

31st December, 1953. Model Byelaws (Buildings).

Conclusion.

No transfer of persons from condemned houses was possible during 1958 due to the cessation of council house building in the latter months of 1957, but it was hoped to commence building early in 1959.

There were 77 families at West Wylam still awaiting houses following the Clearance Order of 1957 and plans were being made to commence clearance at Mickley Square where 167 houses are situated mostly back-to-back with bad sanitary conditions.

I wish to thank Miss J. Gray, Shorthand-Typist and Clerk for her assistance in the carrying out of the work of the Public Health Department as from time to time additional demands were made on the department and it was necessary to have her full co-operation which she always so willingly gave.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. TWEDDLE

Public Health Inspector.

